



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, November 29, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 36



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

With the holidays upon us, we want to take a moment to say thank you and to tell you how grateful we are to count you as a valued member of Veterans-For-Change family. Your support strengthens the service member and Veteran community, provides purpose & hope, and saves lives-- every, single, day! It is members like you that make this possible and for that, we cannot thank you enough. Please be safe and know we are truly thankful to have you as a part of our

family.

We do hope everyone was able to enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving Day even though some state governors had laid down some pretty harsh COVID regulations.

We've finally added back a couple of issues ago the FDA Food and Drug category to the newsletter as there is always a lot of useful information, some just updates, some food or drug recalls and/or shortages.

We've also updated the "TAKE ACTION" section, removed a couple of items no longer available to act on, and added a couple more. So please do, take a look and take action on each one.

The more people participating and taking the action needed help us to push Congress into doing the right thing for all our Veterans!

It's getting colder outside, rain has arrived in many locations, and in many areas, snow is coming or has finally hit! So, we'd like to remind everyone to please make clothing donations to the local DAV to help our homeless Veterans. Clothing and food both are needed, and I'm sure they'd be glad to accept cash donations as well to possibly help cover costs of motel rooms.

We are getting closer to being able to announce the new look of the website, but it's still a slow process, our new website look is coming along, we're still ironing out some kinks, deciding on the looks and feel of some of the pages, and trying to make the databases work correctly, but we're still looking at an early to middle of 2021 roll out date.

Please be safe, please practice the guidelines of COVID, don't let your friends or family wake up to your passing!

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health and a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org





Act Now: Set Up Payment for TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees

Have you set up your automatic monthly payments for your new [TRICARE Select enrollment fees](#)? If you're a TRICARE Select Group A retiree or family member this applies to you. Setting up your payment plan now with your TRICARE regional contractor will ensure your TRICARE Select coverage continues in 2021. [Here are some questions and answers to help you.](#)



Your actions

could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net



Mental Health Bill for Transitioning Service Members

Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced VFW-supported S. 4900, the Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act. This important legislation would create a pilot program to incorporate mental health counseling into the Transition Assistance Program. This new training would inform separating service members of the resources available at VA health facilities to help them meet the challenges of transition from military to civilian life. This proposal was generated by a 2019 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow and shows the importance of grass roots advocacy. The VFW thanks Sens. Brown, Blumenthal, and Ernst for introducing this important legislation and for their efforts to improve the mental health of veterans. [Learn](#)

more.



Links to Other Stories

1. Physician indicted on assault charges
2. Raeford Woman Had Initial Appearance on Wire and Mail Fraud Charges
3. When COVID-19 vaccine comes, VA will be ready
4. Coast Guard

Auxiliary
offers
Veterans
camaraderie,
chance
to
contribute

5. Postvention

—
VA
offers
support
after
suicide
loss

6. VA,
America
Salutes
You
partner
to
bring
attention
to
suicide
prevention
resources

7. VA
recruiting
volunteers
for
COVID-
19
clinical
trials

8. VA
chief
research
officer
receives
award
for
advancing
prostate
cancer
research
for
Veterans
9. VA,
federal
partners
plan
for
COVID-
19
vaccination
distribution
10. Understanding
Your
VA
Rating
Decision
11. How
the
VA
Rates
Migraine
Headaches
12. VA
report

lists
71
top
customer
experience
improvements
and
initiatives

13. Parkinson's
Foundation,
VA
Team
Up
to
Help
Vets
Manage
Disease

14. VA
digs
in,
says
more
data
is
needed
on
toxic
exposure
before
providing
health
care
to
more

Veterans

15. VA completes secure transfer of Veteran data ahead of new electronic health record launch

16. Secretary Wilkie Thanks President Trump for Making “988” America’s New National Suicide Prevention Number

17. VA recognizes Compensated Work Therapy Vocational

Rehabilitation
Week

18. Women
in
leadership
at
VA
recognized
for
their
impact
on
Veterans'
lives
19. VA
reaches
milestone,
completing
nearly
half
of
Blue
Water
Navy
disability
claims
received
since
beginning
of
year
20. VA
awards
Medical/Surgical
Prime

Vendor
2.0
contracts
for
distribution
and
supply
management
services
to
provide
Veteran
health
care

21. VA
creates
National
Women
Veterans
Oncology
System
of
Excellence
in
fight
against
breast
cancer

22. VA
recognizes
Compensated
Work
Therapy
Vocational
Rehabilitation

Week
23. VA's
New
Terre
Haute
clinic
to
serve
thousands



Active Duty Family Member? Find TRICARE Coverage Options to Match Your Needs

Are you an active duty family member thinking about changing your TRICARE health plan? If so, you can do so now. The [TRICARE Open Season](#)—your chance to enroll or make changes to your health plan for next year—runs until Dec. 14. Looking for dental or vision coverage? This is also the time to find options for you and your family. Here's a quick recap of what options are available for active duty family members.

To learn more, [read the article](#).



[Veterans-For-Change Web Site](#)

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009. The looks pretty much stay the same for now, but in the background our new webmaster has been working on a whole new look and feel, a facelift so-to-speak.

Constant improvement and change are being done to make our website the most user friendly “**One-Stop-Shop**” website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with for Mental Health and are currently seeking a new Licensed Mental Health Worker, where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average **3,257** hits per day, and downloads average **4,559** per day with a total **6,923,134** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of charge!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can verify you. Once verified we will be notified and approve your account.

www.Veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **19,646** documents in 171+ Libraries, added 142 documents on-line (Updated: 11/02/20)
- FAQ's on-line with **1,843** FAQ's on 104 topics! (Updated 05/30/20 - 46 NEW)
- Multiple Forums
 - o Afghanistan Veterans
 - o FMP - Foreign Medial Program
 - o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
 - o Iraq Veterans
 - o Korean Veterans
 - o Men Veterans Forum
 - o Mental Health for Veterans (Counselor Needed)
 - o Political Issues
 - o Suggestion Box
 - o The Mess Hall
 - o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
 - o Veteran Affairs
 - o Vietnam Veterans
 - o Welcome Mat
 - o Women Veterans Forum

- o WW II Veterans
- Job Postings
- Memorial Pages (Updated: 04/23/20) (3 Added)
- News (Articles On-Line: **10,073**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,809**, Added 79 New Links (Updated: 11/02/20)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org



Holiday Overseas Mail Deadlines Approaching

The [U.S. Postal Service](#) is preparing for more gifts to be mailed this year than usual as the COVID-19 pandemic forces many families to spend holidays apart. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, USPS has provided the following guidance: Dec. 9 for Air/Army Post Office, Fleet Post Office and Diplomatic Post Office addresses in the 093 ZIP Code using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; Dec. 11 for all other APO/FPO/DPO ZIP Codes, send by Dec. 11 using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and Dec. 18 for APO/FPO/DPO addresses other than the 093 Zip Code using USPS Priority Mail Express. The Postal Service has also

created a “[military care kit](#),” which consists of the items most often requested by military families and it is free.



Jim, below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help! (Updated 11/27/20)

1. [Support Veterans Economic Recovery Act!](#)
2. [NDAA Amendment to Provide Benefits](#)

to
Vets
Exposed
to
Agent
Orange

3. Please
Support
Addition
of
Agent
Orange
Presumptive
Diseases
4. Support
Amendments
That
Add
Diseases
Caused
by
Agent
Orange!
5. H.R.
6027,
the
Restore
Veterans'
Compensation
Act
6. H.R.
5867,
the
STOP
Veteran

Suicide
and
Substance
Abuse
Act

7. H.R.
95,
Legislation
to
Allow
Homeless
Veterans
to
Stay
With
Their
Children
While
Receiving
Services
8. H.R.
303,
the
Retired
Pay
Restoration
Act
9. H.R.
553,
Military
Surviving
Spouses
Equity
Act
10. H.R.

1527,
the
Long-
Term
Care
Veterans
Choice
Act

11. S
179
and
HR
712,
VA
Medicinal
Cannabis
Research
Act
of
2019

12. H.R.
1200,
the
Veterans'
Compensation
Cost-
of-
Living
Adjustment
Act
of
2019

13. S.
785,
the

Commander
John
Scott
Hannon
Veterans
Mental
Health
Care
Improvement
Act

14. H.R.
96,
to
Provide
Dental
Care
for
All
Veterans
Enrolled
in
Veterans
Health
Care

15. H.R.
6590,
DAV
Supports
Deferring
Debt
Collections
during
COVID-
19
Crisis

16. H.R.
6933,
the
Caring
for
Survivors
Act
of
2020

17. Support
S.
3761/H.R.
7443
to
re-
establish
VSO
review
period
on
VBA
decisions

18. Please
Ask
Your
Member
Of
Congress
To
Support
Tester/Harder
Amendment
In
The
Fy2021

National
Defense

19. S.
2950,
the
Veterans
Burn
Pits
Exposure
Recognition
Act
20. Tell
Congress
to
Stand
Up
for
Vietnam
Veterans!
21. Ask
Your
Member
of
Congress
to
Support
Tester/Harder
Amendment
in
the
Fy2021
National
Defense
Author



**CONTACT YOUR
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

To Call your Representative:
202-225-2305

To Call your Senators:
202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call Different Members of Congress:
202-224-3121


TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!
www.veterans-for-change.org



TRICARE Open Season

TRICARE [Open Season](#) is currently open through Dec. 14, 2020. This is the time when beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage. Any changes will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021. This year it is important to note that TRICARE Select Group A retirees will be required to pay an enrollment fee beginning on Jan. 1, 2021. Beneficiaries must set up an allotment with their regional contractors for the enrollment fee to begin on Jan. 1, 2021. Individuals who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. [Learn more.](#)





Follow us on MEWE! The support staff at MEWE is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

We hope you will join us on this new site.

VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO SERVED OUR GREAT NATION

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY



"History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even

better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us."



Register for the Upcoming TRICARE Webinar

Open season is here. Don't miss your chance to make your choice for 2021 health coverage, as well as dental or vision coverage before open season ends on Dec. 14. To learn more about open season and your options, join the "[TRICARE Open Season is Here—What to Do?](#)" webinar on Nov. 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. This year, open season begins on Nov. 9 and ends on Dec. 14.

To learn more, [read the article](#).



Office of Inspector General

1. [Biomedical Research: NIH Should Publicly Report More Information about](#)

the
Licensing
of
Its
Intellectual
Property

2. Federal
Social
Safety
Net
Programs:
Millions
of
Full-
Time
Workers
Rely
on
Federal
Health
Care
and
Food
Assistance
Programs
3. Defense
Production
Act:
Opportunities
Exist
to
Increase
Transparency
and
Identify

Future
Actions
to
Mitigate
Medical
Supply
Chain
Issues:

4. Drug
Misuse:
Agencies
Have
Not
Fully
Identified
How
Grants
That
Can
Support
Drug
Prevention
Education
Programs
Contribute
to
National
Goals
5. Military
Personnel:
Perspectives
on
DOD's
and
the

Military
Services'
Use
of
Borrowed
Military
Personnel

6. Comparative
Effectiveness
Research:
Patient-
Centered
Outcomes
Research
Institute
and
HHS
Continue
Activities
and
Plan
New
Efforts
7. COVID-
19:
Federal
Efforts
Accelerate
Vaccine
and
Therapeutic
Development,
but
More
Transparency

Needed
on
Emergency
Use
Authorizations

8. Medicaid
Program
Integrity:
Action
Needed
to
Ensure
CMS
Completes
Financial
Management
Reviews
in
a
Timely
Manner
9. Private
Health
Insurance:
Markets
Remained
Concentrated
through
2018,
with
Increases
in
the
Individual
and

Small
Group
Markets



NVLSP Triumphs: Court Orders VA to Redecide Thousands of Claims for Blue Water Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America

Court Orders VA to Redecide Thousands of Benefit Claims Denied for Agent Orange-Related Diseases Filed by Veterans Who Served in the Territorial Sea of Vietnam- -Decision Marks Fourth Time Court Has Found That VA Violated 29-Year Old Class Action Consent Decree-

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled in favor of thousands of so-called Blue Water Navy Vietnam

Veterans and their survivors in response to the motion filed by attorneys from the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) to enforce the 29-Year Old Class Action Consent Decree in *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Administration (VA)*. The Court ordered the VA to automatically readjudicate thousands of benefits claims that the Court found had been wrongly denied under the Consent Decree. The Court also ordered the VA to pay retroactive compensation if it finds the veteran served in the territorial seas of Vietnam. The motion was filed with the pro bono assistance of Paul Hastings LLP.

“We applaud the Court’s recognition that Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans and their survivors have been wrongly denied retroactive disability and death benefits ever since 2002, when VA reversed its prior position and denied the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans who served in the territorial seas of Vietnam,” said National Veterans Legal Services Program Executive Director Bart Stichman. “These veterans and their surviving family members have already been waiting years for benefits to which they are entitled under the Consent Decree simply because they did not set foot in the land mass of Vietnam.”

The 1991 Consent Decree applies to a class consisting of hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans and their survivors who applied to the VA for

service-connected disability and death benefits due to exposure to Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide used by the U.S. government during the Vietnam War. That Decree required the VA, whenever it recognized an additional disease is associated with exposure to Agent Orange, to identify and readjudicate all prior VA denials of benefit claims filed for that disease and pay benefits retroactive to the date of the claim that led to the prior denial.

On July 10, 2020, NVLSP, which has served as counsel for the class since 1987, filed its fourth motion for enforcement to obtain compliance with the 1991 Consent Decree. The District Court had granted all three prior enforcement motions. As a result of the prior three successful enforcement actions, VA conceded that it paid billions of dollars in retroactive benefits to Vietnam veterans and their survivors.

The VA's 2002 change in policy challenged in the fourth enforcement motion was that these "Blue Water" Vietnam veterans were not covered by the language of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, which provided that veterans who "served in the Republic of Vietnam" during the Vietnam era "shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service" to Agent Orange. But in 2019, in *Procopio v. Wilkie*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit rejected VA's

interpretation of that language and ruled that Congress intended that all Vietnam veterans who served on ships in the territorial sea of Vietnam—within 12 nautical miles of the coast—be entitled to the presumption of exposure. NVLSP filed its enforcement motion after VA refused to redecide the post-2002 claims of “Blue Water” Vietnam veterans and their survivors that were denied under the VA policy rejected in the Procopio decision.

“The Nehmer consent decree has been instrumental for nearly 30 years to ensure full comprehensive relief for veterans who have suffered greatly from Agent Orange-related diseases. We are gratified that the intended relief is now available to the Blue Water Navy Veterans,” said Stephen Kinnaird, Partner, Litigation Department, Paul Hastings LLP.

Based on the Court’s decision, the VA must:

1. Identify
within
120
days
of
the
date
of
this
order,
all

of
the
Nehmer
readjudication
decisions
made
based
on
the
consent
decree
in
which
the
VA
denied
compensation
on
the
ground
that
the
veteran
was
not
entitled
to
the
presumption
of
herbicide
exposure
because
the
veteran
did

not
set
foot
on
the
landmass
of
Vietnam
or
serve
in
the
inland
waterways
of
Vietnam.

2. Within
240
days
of
the
date
of
this
order,
issue
a
replacement
decision
that
determines:

o (a) whether the veteran served in the territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the war and, if so,

o (b) the amount of retroactive compensation, if any, the veteran or the veteran's survivor (or, if the veteran or survivor is deceased, the estate of the deceased veteran or survivor) is entitled under the terms of consent decree; and

1. Provide class counsel, pursuant to the Privacy Protection Order, with a copy of (a) all of the Nehmer readjudication decisions identified, (b) all of the replacement decisions issued,

and

(c) each notice letter sent to the class members and coding sheet associated with such replacement decisions.

According to estimates, this ruling could impact 2,000 to 15,000 veterans and their survivors and potentially result in each receiving an average of \$28,000 tax-free in benefits. Ultimately, this decision could result in tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in relief to Blue Water Navy veterans and their survivors.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (BWN Act) codified the presumption of herbicide exposure for Blue Water Vietnam veterans. However, the BWN Act does not automatically require the VA to assess if any Blue Water Vietnam veteran or survivor is eligible for retroactive compensation. The BWN Act requirement to pay retroactive compensation is triggered only if a Blue Water Vietnam veteran affirmatively files a claim after January 1, 2020 and the veteran specifically identifies the Agent-Orange related disease that was the subject of the earlier claim.

The BWN Act does not completely correspond to the Nehmer Consent Decree. Some Blue Water Vietnam veterans and their survivors may be eligible for

retroactive compensation under the Consent Decree but not eligible under the BWN Act and vice versa. As a result, the House Report on the BWN Act states that “Nothing in [the BWN Act] intends to limit the rights of Nehmer class members who seek relief for benefits under the Nehmer Consent Decree.”

Background on Nehmer Case

Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is a class action lawsuit brought by NVLSP attorneys in 1986 to challenge a VA regulation that stated, among other things, that chloracne is the only disease that scientific evidence shows is associated with exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange used by the United States in Vietnam. In 1987, the district court certified the case as a class action on behalf of all Vietnam veterans and their survivors who had been denied VA benefits for a condition allegedly associated with herbicide exposure or who would be eligible to file a claim for such benefits in the future. The court also certified NVLSP’s lawyers as the lawyers for the class. In an order issued on May 3, 1989, the court invalidated the portion of the regulation providing that no condition other than chloracne is associated with herbicide exposure and voided all VA decisions denying benefit claims under that portion of the regulation.

In 1991, NVLSP’s attorneys negotiated a favorable

consent decree with the VA in Nehmer. The Nehmer consent decree requires the VA, whenever it recognizes that the emerging scientific evidence shows that a positive relationship exists between Agent Orange exposure and a new disease, to (a) identify all claims based on the newly recognized disease that were previously denied and then (b) pay disability and death benefits to these claimants, retroactive to the initial date of claim. Since 1991, the VA has recognized that scientific studies show that there is a positive association between Agent Orange exposure and diabetes, ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and more than a dozen different types of cancer. As a result of the Nehmer consent decree, over the last two decades, the VA has paid an aggregate of more than \$4.6 billion in retroactive disability and death benefits to hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans and their surviving family members.



The Armed Services Blood Program

The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) is calling on all veterans with access to military installations to donate blood. The ASBP provides blood to active duty service members, veterans, and their families.

Donations can be made at 20 locations across the

nation all of which are located on military installations.

[Learn more.](#)

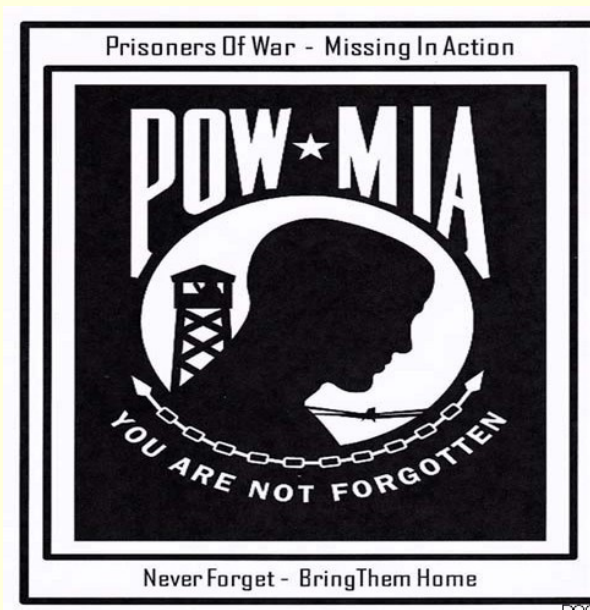


CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !

Need Help with Your VA Claim?

The claims process can be confusing and one that you should not try to navigate alone. The VFW's National Veterans Service is a nationwide network of VA accredited service officers and pre-discharge representatives who are experts in dealing with the VA and the key to your success. As skilled professionals, we assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. This is a service the VFW is proud to offer free of charge to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process. [Find a VFW Service Officer in your area.](#) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many VFW service offices remain in a telework capacity, but the VFW's network of service officers have the capability to continue assisting our veterans safely without face-

to-face contact.



Tell Congress to Stand Up for Vietnam Veterans

Right now, congressional conference committee members are deciding which provisions will remain in the final version of [S. 4049](#), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA).

Senate Amendment 1972 to this bill would provide the life-saving care and benefits needed for Vietnam veterans suffering from bladder cancer,

hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism. **TAKE ACTION**

today to urge your senators and representatives to ensure Senate Amendment 1972 remains in the final version of the NDAA. Hold Congress accountable to do the right thing for our Vietnam veterans!



1. Biosimilarity
and
Interchangeability:
Additional
Draft
Q&As
on
Biosimilar
Development
and
the
BPCI
Act
2. Clinical
Drug
Interaction
Studies
With
Combined
Oral
Contraceptives
Guidance
for
Industry
3. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:

FDA
Announces
Advisory
Committee
Meeting
to
Discuss
COVID-
19
Vaccine
Candidate

4. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:
FDA
Authorizes
Drug
Combination
for
Treatment
of
COVID-
19
5. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:
FDA
Authorizes
First
COVID-
19
Test
for

Self-
Testing
at
Home

6. Coronavirus
Disease
2019
(COVID-
19)
7. Coronavirus
Treatment
Acceleration
Program
(CTAP)
8. COVID-
19
Frequently
Asked
Questions
9. COVID-
19
Update:
FDA's
Ongoing
Commitment
to
Transparency
for
COVID-
19
EUAs
10. Current
and
Resolved
Drug

Shortages
and
Discontinuations
Reported
to
FDA

11. FDA Approves First Intratumoral Injection to Treat Non-Metastatic Mast Cell Tumors in Dogs
12. FDA Approves First Treatment for Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome and Some Progeroid Laminopathies
13. FDA Releases

New
Outbreak
Investigation
Table

14. Fresenius
Kabi
Issues
Voluntary
Nationwide
Recall
of
a
Single
Lot
of
Dexmedetomidine
Hydrochloride
Injection
Due
to
Cross-
Contamination
of
Lidocaine
15. FSMA
Proposed
Rule
for
Food
Traceability
16. Investigations
of
Foodborne
Illness
Outbreaks

17. Non-clinical Immunogenicity Assessment of Generic Peptide Products: Development, Validation, and Sampling
18. OPDP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
19. Product-Specific Guidances for Generic Drug Development
20. Product-Specific Guidances; Draft and Revised Draft Guidances for Industry; Availability

21. Reflecting
on
Biosimilar
User
Fee
Amendments
(BsUFA)
II
and
preparing
for
the
BsUFA
III
reauthorization
process

22. Use
of
Cyclin-
Dependent
Kinase
4/6
Inhibitor
with
Hormonal
Therapy
in
Metastatic
Breast
Cancer
—
Efficacy
in
Patient
Subgroups

23. FDA
Expands
Approval
of
Influenza
Treatment
to
Post-
Exposure
Prevention
24. Why
the
United
States-
Mexico-
Canada
Agreement
is
Important
to
FDA
25. FDA
Approves
First
Treatment
for
Hutchinson-
Gilford
Progeria
Syndrome
and
Some
Progeroid
Laminopathies
26. Current

and
Resolved
Drug
Shortages
and
Discontinuations
Reported
to
FDA

27. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:
FDA
Authorizes
Monoclonal
Antibodies
for
Treatment
of
COVID-
19

28. FDA
approves
first
treatment
for
weight
management
for
people
with
certain
rare
genetic

conditions

29. Riverside
Natural
Foods
LTD.
Issues
Allergy
Alert
on
Undeclared
Almond
in
"Good
&
Gather
Banana
Chocolate
Chip
Date
&
Nut
Bar"
30. Prairie
Farms
Issues
Allergy
Alert
on
Undeclared
Egg
in
Chocolate
Milk
Gallons
31. Coronavirus

(COVID-19)
Update:
FDA
Issues
New
Policy
on
Dry
Heat
for
Reuse
of
Certain
Respirators

32. Remdesivir
(Veklury)
Approval
for
the
Treatment
of
COVID-19

—
The
Evidence
for
Safety
and
Efficacy

33. Recalls,
Outbreaks
&
Emergencies

34. Coronavirus
Disease
2019
(COVID-
19)
(as
of
11/25/20)
35. Allergy
Alert
Issued
for
Undeclared
Shrimp
in
Mislabeled
Popcorn
Chicken
from
26
Whole
Foods
Market
Stores
36. FDA
Approves
First
Drug
to
Treat
Rare
Metabolic
Disorder
37. Fusion
Health

and
Vitality
Issues
Voluntary
Nationwide
Recall
of
Core
Essential
Nutrients
and
Immune
Boost
Sublingual
Vitamin
D3
Due
to
the
Unapproved
Use
of
a
Food
Additive
and
Unapproved
Marketing
Statements





VA Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2021

Veterans receiving government benefits will see a cost of living increase take effect on Dec. 1, 2020, and will be reflected in the Dec. 31, 2020 payment. This is equal to the increase granted for Social Security benefits, which will be 1.3% for 2021. The increase will be for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses and children.





**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org

TRICARE Open Season

TRICARE [Open Season](#) is currently open through Dec. 14, 2020.

This is the time when beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage. Any changes will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021. This year it is important to note that TRICARE

Select Group A retirees will be required to pay an enrollment fee beginning on Jan. 1, 2021.

Beneficiaries must set up an allotment with their regional contractors for the enrollment fee to begin on Jan. 1, 2021. Individuals who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. [Learn more.](#)



November is National Family Caregivers Month

Resources for caregivers have significantly increased since the passing of the VFW-supported VA Mission Act of 2018. In October of this year, the application process for caregivers of veterans injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, opened eligibility for the [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#). The VA Caregiver Support Program offers a [collection](#) of tools and information for both the caregivers and the veterans they serve. Additionally, [Building Better Caregivers](#) provides an online workshop with self-paced lessons and a connection with the caregiver community.





TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Health Matters Newsletter Issue 4, 2020

Do you want to learn more about open season, which began Nov. 9 and ends on Dec. 14? Here are just some of the topics you can read about in the latest issue of the [TOP Health Matters Newsletter](#):

- TRICARE Open Season
- Federal Benefits Open Season
- Group A TRICARE Select enrollment fees
- Keeping DEERS information updated
- Flu prevention

Download the latest TOP Health Matters Newsletter at www.tricare.mil/publications.





Army Settles Court Case on Bad Conduct Discharges

On Wednesday, the U.S. Army announced that it had reached a [nationwide settlement](#) in a case brought by veterans who received other-than-honorable discharges. As part of the settlement, the Army agrees to review decisions of the Army Discharge Review Board (ADRB) issued on or after Oct. 7, 2001, for certain veterans with mental health conditions, including PTSD and TBI. The Army will automatically reconsider all eligible ADRB decisions issued on or after April 17, 2011. Veterans who received a decision issued by the ADRB between Oct. 7, 2001 until April 16, 2011, will be permitted to file for reconsideration. [Learn how to apply for a discharge upgrade.](#)

Tax & Credit Information



1. IRS
to
mask
key
business
transcript
details;
protect
taxpayers
from
identity
theft
2. How
the
CARES
Act
changes
deducting
charitable
contributions
3. Taxpayers
have
the
right
to
representation
when
working
with
the

- IRS
4. Get Ready for Taxes: Get ready now to file 2020 federal income tax returns
 5. Here's how visually impaired taxpayers can access IRS resources and information
 6. IRS Criminal Investigation releases Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report;

Identifies
\$2.3
billion
in
tax
fraud

7. Here's
who
qualifies
for
the
employee
business
expense
deduction
8. Common
errors
to
avoid
when
claiming
employer
tax
credits
9. Special
\$300
tax
deduction
helps
most
people
give
to
charity
this

year
—
even
if
they
don't
itemize

10. Here's
how
taxpayers
can
check
if
their
charitable
donation
is
tax
deductible

11. Get
Ready
for
Taxes:
Steps
to
take
now
to
make
tax
filing
easier
in
2021

12. ABLE

accounts
are
a
valuable
benefit
for
taxpayers
with
disabilities

13. Here's
what
taxpayers
can
do
now
to
Get
Ready
to
file
taxes
in
2021

14. Taxpayer
Relief
Initiative
aims
to
help
those
financially
affected
by
COVID-
19

Blood Donation Need Still Critical

This holiday season, the Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood, platelets, or plasma to help maintain a sufficient supply for those battling COVID-19, cancers, other infections, or trauma victims. Those who donate between Nov. 25-28, 2020, will receive an exclusive long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt. Please schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).



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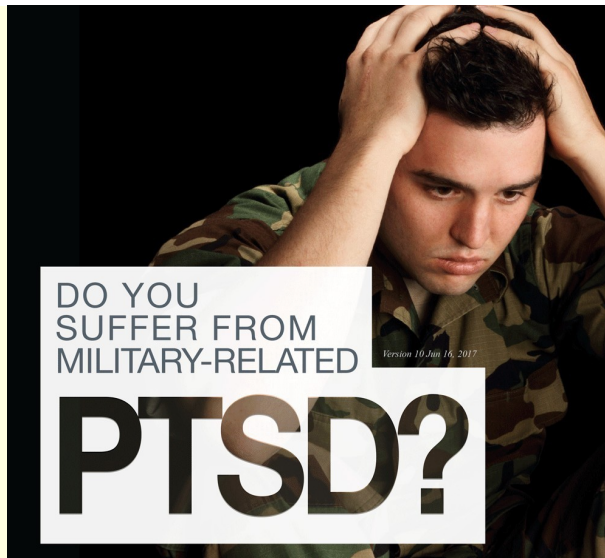
CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!

What Plan is Right for You, TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select?

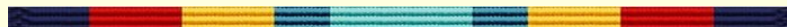
The annual TRICARE Open Season is underway until Dec. 14. This is your chance to make changes to your current health coverage or enroll in a new TRICARE Prime (including the US Family Health Plan) or TRICARE Select plan. But do you know which plan best meets your needs?

To learn more, [read the article](#).





**Veterans Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets
1-877-424-3838**



TRICARE and FEDVIP Open Season/TRICARE Select Payment Plan

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) wants beneficiaries to know that TRICARE Open Season is underway. Beneficiaries can make changes to their healthcare coverage, as well as dental and vision coverage, with the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) before Open Season ends on Dec. 14, 2020. Each Fall, TRICARE Open Season allows beneficiaries to enroll in or change their TRICARE Prime option, including US Family Health Plan or TRICARE Select plan, for the upcoming year. Beneficiaries can also learn the differences between TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select by [going online](#). Beneficiaries do NOT have to

re-enroll if they want to stay in their current health plan. Beneficiaries will continue in their current health plan through 2021 or as long as they are eligible.

Most Group A retirees (TRICARE Select beneficiaries whose initial enlistment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018) must set up payment for a new monthly fee to keep their TRICARE Select coverage. According to DHA officials, only 14 percent of households currently using TRICARE Select have set up a process for paying their program fees. Payment can be made by military allotment, electronic funds transfer, debit or credit card. TRICARE Select beneficiaries wanting to set up their monthly payment fee should [go online](#). The fees go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

Also taking place now through December 14 is the Federal Benefits Open season.

<https://www.benefeds.com/>. If a beneficiary is eligible for dental or vision coverage (FEDVIP), they can enroll in a plan. Most TRICARE-For-Life, TRICARE Prime, and TRICARE Select beneficiaries are eligible for FEDVIP. If they are already enrolled in a FEDVIP dental or vision plan and they do NOT want to make any changes, their enrollment will automatically continue in 2021. To compare FEDVIP plans and costs, you can [go online](#).



SOUND OFF!

SHARE YOUR STORIES AND COMMENTS WITH US:

We know most Veterans have had issues both current and in the past with the Veterans Affairs, and we'd really like to hear from you!

So now is your chance to voice your concerns, opinions, problems, compliments, advice, etc., anything you'd like to have heard.

We will be creating another category in the "NEWS" section of the website called "SOUND OFF" and instead of us continually sending this type of information in fax blasts to all 535 members of Congress, we will be adding to the website as we know many members of Congress do watch us, and this makes it a lot easier for us to track the number of people reading the issues.

In addition, it might even open the door for your fellow Veteran's to see they're not alone, and they too might voice their concerns.

Your story can be as long or as short as you'd like to express what you have to say, we can post as anonymous, or if you want we can post your name to

the article, just tell us how you would like for us to post your story and we will adhere to your request.

We only ask that you keep it clean from foul language, and we will edit only to correct grammar, and if need be to edit out any foul language as that is an almost immediate cut off from Congress to pay attention.

Send your story to JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.org and we will get it posted as quickly as we can. And if you have a title for your story that would be fantastic, as we will be providing the story title and link to Congress.



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

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www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and
Family!**



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Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

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